

The claims have been amended to overcome the objection to Claim 9 and the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Toda and Tani, for the reasons noted at pages 2-7 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

Each of independent Claims 1 and 9 recites a novel combination of structure and function whereby the memory means stores a plurality of correcting information for correcting a change in a spectrum characteristic of a physical element, caused by a change of at least one of the light transmission factor and the light transmission amount of the physical element. The correction (or correcting) means corrects the change in the spectrum characteristic of the physical element by reading out from the memory the correcting information corresponding to the light transmission factor or the light transmission amount of the physical element.

While the Office Action agrees that Toda does not disclose the storing of the correcting information and the correcting of the change in an optical characteristic of the

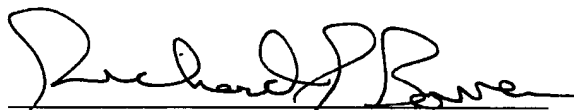
physical element according to the correcting information, it relies upon Tani for teaching this feature at column 3, lines 60-68. This portion of Tani describes that the CPU determines the new aperture value and the shutter speed according to a photometry result and then controls the iris based on the determined value. However, this is merely conventional iris control based on the photometry and does not suggest any memory means for storing correcting information for correcting the change in a spectrum characteristic of the physical element, caused by the change of at least one of the light transmission factor and the light transmission amount of the physical element, combined with the correction means which corrects the change in the spectrum characteristic by using the stored correcting information corresponding to the light transmission state of the physical element. Note that the amount of opening of a diaphragm is different from the spectrum characteristic of the physical element, and a change in the amount of diaphragm-opening is not caused by the change of the light transmission factor or the light transmission amount of the physical element, but it is, instead, determined by the photometry result. Accordingly, the salient claimed features

of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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